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Mr. MACKENZIE inquired whether Dr. Gibb had known the case of the female, whose skull he had exhibited, in life, and was then aware that the bony structure was destroyed? It would be interesting to have an absolute specimen of the effects on the skull produced by a known disease. He thought it would be desirable that a microscopical examination should be made of the skull, to see the character of the disintegration that had taken place.

Dr. GIBB replied that he had seen the case during life, and that the female was in a most fearful state of disease. There were ulcers over the skull, and the bone had become exposed. Some of the ulcers, he had no doubt, penetrated the skull, and openings can now be seen penetrating it. She had lost the bones of her nose; and the case was so remarkable, that he had adopted means to obtain the skeleton after death for examination. He stated further, in reply to Mr. Mackenzie, that the woman had been dead about eighteen years. He said he intended to submit the other skulls to a careful inspection, and would endeavour to complete a model of the larger and most peculiar one, and, if his efforts were successful, he should have casts made of it, and would present one to the Society, to be placed in their museum.

The following papers were then read :—

On a Jaw from Buildwas Abbey, Co. Salop. By GEO. E. ROBERTS, Esq., Hon. Sec. A.S.L., and C. CARTER BLAKE, F.G.S., F.A.S.L.

The line of the Severn Valley railway cut through the burial ground of the monks who tenanted Buildwas Abbey, near Broseley. The jaw exhibited was obtained by Mr. Roberts on the spot, during the cutting. No remains of coffins were found, although the number of human bones thrown out was not inconsiderable.

This jaw is that of a powerful young man. The condyle is large; and the coronoid process has the same abnormal forward curve of its anterior border, as is noticed by Professor Owen in his paper on the Andaman islander's skeleton* (*British Association Reports*, 1861), which is not unusual in English lower jaws. Only the first and second molars are in place. The number of cusps accord with those in typical European jaws.

Mr. ROBERTS said he was in Shropshire at the time the railway cutting was being made, and then found the jaw bone which was on the table. It appeared to possess some characters that were not very common, and he brought it away to place it in the Society's museum.

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE observed, that the specimen which Mr. Roberts had presented to the Society was a very curious jaw; and it repeated the peculiarity in its formation, on which Professor Owen laid stress, in the paper he read at the meeting of the British Association in 1861. The same abnormal form of the coronoid process was repeated, and it tended to confirm the theory—he might almost call it the law—that these so-called abnormities become more common the further our examinations are extended, and that, in reality, there are very few abnormal formations, strictly considered. This specimen was another instance, that what appears to be abnormal on a limited examination, is found to be common when the investigations are extended.

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* "The lower jaw shows a variety in the shape of the coronoid process which is occasionally seen in Europeans; it is broader and lower than usual; the front border is more convex at its upper half, and forms with the concave lower part a deeper and more decided sigmoid curve." (Owen, *loc. cit.*)

Mr. **Mackenzie** drew attention to the fact, that the enamel of the teeth was perfectly preserved after an interment of about 600 years; and he desired to know the nature of the soil in which the bodies had been buried.

Mr. **Roberts** stated that the date of the jaw was about the year 1280, and that the bodies had been buried in gravel. He saw about six or seven different skeletons; but they were so much decomposed, that he could not get more than the jaw, which he now produced, and a few bones.

Mr. **Mackenzie** further observed, that in the skeletons of some of the men killed in Cromwell's battles, though of a much more recent date, the teeth were all decayed.

Mr. C. **Carter Blake** said, that the state of preservation in which skeletons were found depended on the nature of the substance in which the bodies had been deposited. In the human remains found in peat, the enamel was always well preserved.

The thanks of the meeting having been given to Mr. Roberts and to Mr. C. Carter Blake, the following paper was read:—

On Human Remains from Kent's Hole, near Torquay. By C. Carter Blake, F.G.S., F.A.S.L., Foreign Associate of the Anthropological Society of Paris.

Some time ago, Mr. William Davies, of the British Museum, to whom I am indebted for many suggestions relating to the specimens in that collection, called my attention to a few remains from the classically celebrated cave of Kent's Hole, which had been obtained by purchase from a dealer named Heggerty, and which had been passed over by many observers on the subject. I shall, with the Society's permission, give a list of these objects, with a few descriptive notes.

1. Left humerus, covered on one side with thin layer of stalagmite, charged with carbonate of iron.
2. Left ulna, exhibiting traces, but in less degree, of stalagmitic deposit; the bone is worn very thin in middle, where it has been gnawed by mice, or other small rodents.
3. Axis and six fragments of cervical vertebræ.
4. Right ramus of the inferior mandible of an aged individual; no teeth are in place. Sockets, however, exist, indicating the spots where *i* 1, *i* 2 on right side, *i* 1 on left side, canine on right side, and *p* 1 and *p* 2 right side have been. Alveolar absorption operating for a long period of time before death, has removed all traces of the true molar series. The body of the jaw is consequently very thin immediately below this part, a flattened depression, as is usual in aged individuals, scooping backwards a cavity, which obliterating